

SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC HERALD

A JOURNAL OF THE

COMING CIVILIZATION

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CURRENT COMMENT

BY FREDERIC HEATH.

San Diego, Cal., has a Socialist branch. The Socialists recently elected all their municipal candidates in Lagrange, Italy.

Probes, and more probes. Dirty capitalism must constantly try to clean house.

Socialist candidates will be put up in all the legislative districts of Italy in the coming elections.

Wilson's private secretary will be given \$7,500 a year. Wilson tried to use his position to get a job for a girl stenographer from his home city to the poll in the Great Photocropic Republic of the West.

Bonomi, Bishop of Cremona, in Italy, has issued a pastoral letter holding that the church authorities do not possess infallibility on political matters. Some of the other bishops are said to have taken issue with him, and quite a controversy has ensued.

Two seven million dollar battleships have been ordered by the government. After this money has been spent the cost of keeping them up to the murder mark will take a few more dollars, yet no professional taxpayers will bawl, because professional taxpayers are confirmed tax dodgers and also stand in with the game of the ruling class which needs warships in the business.

A poker game in which a number of legislators were participants was raided in St. Paul the other night. It took place in a hotel room and some of the sedate lawmakers managed to escape arrest by using sheets as ropes and getting out of the windows. The poker game has long been a favorite method of indirect bribery in capitalist lawmaking bodies, but of course the St. Paul game was a square one. At least we do not know that it was not.

An Italian priest allowed the Socialists to use his church for a Socialist meeting in Italy recently, and the bishop, who is down on political freedom for the people, closed the church and said it could not be used again until consecrated. If Jesus came back to earth some of these holy men would behold his democratic appearance with horror and奔跑 for any church property he might set his foot on. In this particular case the Catholic communists of the church are so much incensed that they are demanding that the state take the nishops' "temperances," or non-church possessions and contributions, away.

The politicians in the Milwaukee Catholic Hibernians order got an easel-Jesuit to make the St. Patrick's day address and he emitted a tirade against the Socialists, as he was expected to do. He said among other things that the clerics were not attracted by the bread and butter proposals of the Socialists, as they were "idealists." But Socialism is ideal, too, and where is the man who will say that Irish workmen are not more idealists than clerics? The butler question as any other "workingman" Capitalism has shown them no particular mercy that I ever noticed, not even in Ireland. And besides, when a priest is speaking on behalf of capitalism he is not speaking in favor of anything that is very ideal—if anybody should ask you!

A Wisconsin Socialist got Davy Goldstein in a corner the other day and made him look like a plugged Canada dime. Fear of helping to advertise the little false-alarm has kept our Socialists from making him toe the mark and prove his rubbish, or try to. In thus ignoring the fellow we have missed many opportunities to get Catholic workmen to thinking about our principles. It is true that he is a slippery adversary and that a person who is not well posted should not match his lack of intimate knowledge with the Goldstein tricks, but almost every community has some one who can face him and put him to rout, if they go at him in the right way. The reason for avoiding debate is easily seen through. He fears to mix his pretense with the crafty elements that are using him. They will drop him cold the minute Catholic workmen see that he is really misrepresenting.

The growth of capitalist politicians-developed militiamen in this country is shown up by the Painters and Decorators' magazine in the following words: "Fifteen years ago the word 'militiamen' and the thing it denotes were almost unknown in this country. It was something foreign, something to congratulate ourselves that we did not possess. Today no country on earth expends so large a percentage of its revenues for military purposes." All of which is as sure as shooting. And in this connection we can safely set it down as equally clear that the constant increase in flag drills and war exercises in the public schools is developed by the agents of the ruling interests to help make little a warlike nation. A man who stays at home and minds his own business does not get in fight. It is the same with a nation, as with a man, so situated geographically as is ours. The one war we have ever had since the one begun that was unavoidable was an internal one. Both the war of 1812 and that concerning the Civil War are not such as to fill us with any particular pride.

A cheerful saphead elected to the legislature of the state of Washington proposed to introduce a bill requiring all members of the faculty and student body of the state university to take an oath that they were not against the constitution or interested in Socialism. Which brought the following blistering reprimand from a capitalist paper, the Spokane Daily Chronicle: "If it is true that such a bill has been introduced by Representative Craig of Chehalis, it is time for the real Americans of that gentleman's home town to call him up by telephone and say a few things so distinctly that it will not be necessary for him to repeat them. They should tell him that the first principle of this republic is freedom of honest thought. They should inform him that the institutions of this state are made for all the people without the slightest regard to their ancestors or creeds or parties. They should suggest that the best way in this land to gain sympathy for any cause backed up by sincere men is to permeate it and try to crush it by petty tyranny. This is America—not Siberia."

The veteran Hyndman of England, who in his younger years in the movement personally knew Marx and was later associated with men like William Morris and the others, has recently written in glowing terms of the election news from this country, seeing therein the unmistakable evidence of the beginning of the end of capitalist cannibalism. He says: "Never in all

my life has there been anything more encouraging in the whole movement than in this. For let there be no mistake about the significance of this splendid achievement by our American comrades. The educated American proletariat is marching on steadily to victory—politically and industrially. The silly leftists who imagine that infinitely the greatest revolution the world has ever seen can be made, so to say, between breakfast and dinner, by a chancery crusade of bolderdash and sabotage, may begin to reflect. If our American comrades, greatly encouraged as they have the right to be by their glorious success now, work on with equal determination and enthusiasm for the next four years, it is quite possible that in 1916 two millions of convinced revolutionaries Socialists will follow the red flag to the poll in the Great Photocropic Republic of the West."

Taft's friend, Cardinal Gibbons, has had to virtually admit that when he took his cardinal oath he swore to assert and promote the rights of the pope "even temporal, especially those of the civil principality," and to combat with every effort heretics "and those rebelling against our lord, the pope, and his successors." As the pope claims dominion over all kings and presidents and principalities, and this country denied the right so claimed, he has conceded the principle of the separation of church and state, the cardinal naturally did not like to admit having taken such an oath. He instructed his secretary to say that he had no knowledge of any such oath. Then a copy of the London Daily Telegraph of December 1, 1911, was found at the congressional library, in which the consistory, in which the more recent cardinal received his red, was reported at great length, finding a verbatim copy of the oath they were required to take. In order to make the evidence still more positive the London Tablet was appealed to and declared the reprint of the oath to be correct. This admission was made in its issue of December 16, 1911, a copy of which is also on file at the national library. The church in question has a perfect right to seek world dominion, but, also, the people of a republic have a like right to know the fact of such an oath and to guard their common rights accordingly.

Recently a case of smallpox developed among the pupils of the south high school in Milwaukee and at once went up a hue and cry for vaccination. A large share of the pupils were accordingly subjected to this "scientific" tainting of the blood and the result will probably play its part later in life when they are beset with some chronic disease, cancer, tuberculosis, what not. But the amusing thing about it all was not the much the unnecessary panic but the fact that unvaccinated pupils were prevented from attending school—to protect those already vaccinated. If vaccination protects need the vaccinated be afraid to associate with those unvaccinated? The practice of vaccination developed out of the ignorant past and should not be blithely swallowed, especially by the working class, whose economic situation does not warrant them in running risks of possible injury to their systems. Vaccination may be a proper thing, I am not wise enough to decide that point for others, but my personal opinion is that it is and that is what is wrong. Modern sanitization moreover, has rendered smallpox a fairly harmless disease; more people die from vaccination than from smallpox, as a matter of fact. Vaccine matter is sick filth from an animal sore, matter that nature is crowding out as impure. Compared to it, the old exploded Brown-Sequard "elixir of life," which was taken from the privates of a goat, was innocent indeed. If it is proper to put such disgusting stuff into our systems we ought to be scientifically sure of it, and after the most searching national and international investigation.

Gross and brutal was the stuff given to an interviewer of a Milwaukee pa-

per against Socialism by a "man of God" from New York. The man interviewed was the Rev. Terence Murphy, S. J., who was in Milwaukee to speak at a local order of Hibernians' celebration. After admitting that the national vote does not measure the full strength of Socialism in this country and saying that the system of private ownership must be preserved by removing enough of its wrongs to head off the Socialists, this holy, kindly man breaks out in this wise:

"To me the most colossal fraud in all the movement has been the exploitation of the masses by the paid lecturers of the party—the Socialists for revenue only. They have made a good thing out of this arrest. They have profited greatly by it. Look at Wayland. He took a million from the people with his appeal to Reason. Look at Wilshire, driven from the party because, while he preached B-

socialism he practiced capitalism. The hearts of the people are good and sound, but they have suffered because of these agitators for pay."

Why is it worse for Socialist lecturers to advocate their ideas than for lecturers on some other subject to advocate their own, even including men of the cloth? The thing is pure slander on the holy man's part. It was even a long time before the Socialist organization succeeded in getting the pay of its lecturers up to within hailing distance of the living wage of the trade union organizers. Many of them nearly starved, but did so uncompromisingly because of their love for the cause. Wayland made no million out of the movement. He used his means to help the movement, just as others have done before and since, and his and Wilshire's name should not be spoken in the same breath.

The Socialist movement is self-clean-

IT'S THE MEDICINE THAT AILS HIM!



—New York Call.

The Socialist Movement Grew Out of Failure of Direct Actionists

It is often said that Marx would be a Syndicalist if he lived today, says Robert Hunter, in the National Socialist. His advocacy of Political Action is due, the Syndicalists declare, to the fact that Marx lived before the time of great industrial organization. He was for Political Action because he did not know the power of Direct Action.

Now nothing could be more absurd than that. Marx was a Political Actionist because he was convinced of the ineffectiveness of Direct Action. Before Marx the sole action known to the working class was Direct Action. He was familiar with Robert Owen's Political Action, the Direct Action of the Chartist, the General Strike, and all the Direct Action methods of the early English Labor movement. Strikes, riots, sabotage, lockouts, blacklists, boycotts, one big union, low dues; every method and policy known to modern Syndicalism, Marx had seen worked out almost under his very eyes. Never since have the methods of Syndicalism undergone such a test. Yet in the face of it all—probably because of it all—Marx came to the definite conclusion that the one hope of working-class emancipation lay in the capture of public powers. "Every class war," says Plechanoff, "is a political war. In order to do away with feudal society, the rising capitalist had to seize upon political power, in order to do away with capitalist society, the working class

must do the same. Its political task is, therefore, traced out for it beforehand by the force of the events themselves, and not by any abstract conditions." I quote this striking statement not only because it comes from a particularly gifted Marxian, but also because it presents admirably the very foundation principle of the modern Socialist movement. There is not an organized body of Socialists in the world that would not subscribe to that view, nor a single leader of prominence that would not declare that since the days of the Communist Manifesto, that thought has been the chief guiding principle of Socialism. Marxian Socialism, in so far as it involves political action, is a result of the failure of Syndicalism.

Of course, many will declare that while the capture of public powers may be the chief object of the Socialist parties, it should not concern the industrial organizations. They will urge what to them appears more important, the use of the General Strike to capture the tools of production. This matter has been fully dealt with elsewhere and I shall not attempt to rehearse conclusions that were clearly developed in earlier papers. The point to be made here is this, that wherever any great strike, properly organized and carried out, has been lost, the failure has been due to the interference of public powers. The English government played a big part in breaking the magnificent General Strike of the thirties and all down through the nine

teenth century every great strike that failed, after proper preparations had been made, failed through the aid given by government to the capitalists.

The history of the American

Railway Union in this country furnishes us with a striking example of a superb attempt to carry out some of the doctrines of Syndicalism. It was an attempt to form a great industrial union of all railroad employees. Mr. Debs and his associates then knew little of Socialism and not one of them placed any particular reliance on political action. The force of actual conditions and the example set before them by the jealousy and craft spirit of the older brotherhoods made them industrial unionists. Their theories were born out of the necessities of the situation. And we all know what an immense organization the A. R. U. built up in a few months. Almost at its birth it was the terror of the railroad kings. Unfortunately, however, the members could not be controlled and Mr. Debs and the associate officers were forced, against their will, to enter upon the great strike of 1894. Although not prepared for a strike of such magnitude, that strike would probably nevertheless have been won had it not been for the United States government.

"It was not the soldiers that ended the strike," testified Mr. Debs before the United States Strike Commission, appointed by the President July 26, 1894, "it was not the old brotherhoods that

ended the strike; it was simply the United States courts that ended the strike. Our men were in a position that never would have been shaken under any circumstances if we had been permitted to remain upon the field, remain among them; but once we were taken from the scene of action and restrained from sending telegrams or issuing the orders necessary, or answering questions, the headquarters were demoralized and abandoned."

For the purposes of this discussion, the point in what Mr. Debs says is this: When the people have lost all control of public powers, when those powers remain at the disposal of a monarch, or of a clique, or of a class, when the laws, the courts, the armies, and the press are owned and controlled by the capitalists, the General Strike has not the slightest possibility of success. To believe that a majority of the workers will in the immediate future be sufficiently disciplined, organized, and educated to act in unison, and to carry on a strike for months without leaders, or the direction of a single labor or Socialist committee, is to my mind the essence of dreamland. Experience certainly leads to this conclusion. "The General Strike has not the slightest possibility of success. 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Wisconsin Socialist Legislators and Anti-Trust Bills

BY CARL MINKLEY.

A fair minded man will see that his horse gets sufficient oats, so it will not starve. He is regulating the feed according to the work required from the horse. It is in this fashion that our progressive statesmen propose to regulate the wages of the working class. They establish all kinds of commissions for the purpose of regulating conditions in work shops, and the latest policy is to regulate wages in some way. They are speaking of a minimum wage for women and minors. They don't want to abolish the wage system and give the working man what he produces. They simply want to provide enough oats for the women and minors. But evidently they do not consider the stomach of the working man, because they don't ask for a so-called living wage for the working man—the so-called bread winner of the family.

We have commissions for every little dinky thing in the state—rat places for an army or regulators. They take into consideration the depreciation of machinery, the development of modern machinery, the invention of machines, and the effect of this or that invention on old machinery, etc.

They set aside contracts made between cities and public utility corporations and establish a good measure of profit on the investment.

They regulate in the interest of the voter, but never consider the welfare of the workingman employed in such public utilities.

It is a new kind of progressivism to be sure to receive a fair measure of profit on capital but never consider the necessity to secure for the workingman sufficient income to keep him alive and in good health. The regulation in the workshops, such as safety devices, is not brought about by the desire to benefit the workingman. It

is done for the purpose of saving the capitalist the cost of damage suits. This point was clearly stated before the labor committee when ever Tom Neary of Milwaukee appeared against bills that intended to do away with safety devices in factories.

We never the protection of the workingman, but the tendency to protect the workingman must go farther. We ask for justice rather than just enough oats to reproduce labor power.

This Progressive movement originated with the middle class and its representation therefore can't see the necessity of changing the economic system.

It is up to the Socialist to advance sound economics for the benefit of the workingman, and also the middle class.

The sooner the middle class will realize that their days are counted, that they have to make room for the trust, and that it is to their future

interest to join the working-class movement for the purpose of acquiring the industries, the better it will be for this middle class.

We ask this middle class not to protect themselves as a class of the present, but rather to join a movement that will protect them against the capitalists in the future. We have to develop an economic system which will do away with exploitation in whatever form. It may be, and secure to the real producer the full value of his labor, so he may enjoy the fruits of his labor and not be obliged to divide the fruits of his toil with some one else who is not doing necessary work in this system of production and distribution.

It is for this reason that the Socialists in the Assembly voted against Bill 72.

We realize and appreciate the good will of the Progressives, but it is our duty to show them the fallacy of such policy and point the way out of this misery.

PARTY NEWS OF THE WISCONSIN MOVEMENT

The Legislature

Social-Democrats in State Legislature: Senator Gabriel Zophy, Assemblymen Carl Minkley, Edward H. Sian, E. H. Kletz, Martin Gerecke, J. M. Viet, William L. Smith.

Employment Agencies

MADISON, Wis., March 12.—Regulation of employment agencies, establishment of free employment agencies and discussion of bills covering sanitation in labor camps, occupied the attention of the assembly committee on labor, Tuesday afternoon.

Assemblyman Smith's bill, which provides for the establishment of free employment bureaus to all cities and counties was discussed before the committee along with a bill similar in some respects to it by Assemblyman Bingham, chairman of the committee. The Smith bill was recommended for immediate consideration, while the Bingham bill was reported out of the committee for passage.

The Smith bill, which is strictly a Socialist measure, provides for free employment bureaus in every city and county of the state, the managing committee to be composed of one representative employer, one representative employee, one representative of the school board, and one member of the council or county board. Information concerning the supply of labor and demand for labor in each city to be kept on file in the office of the industrial commission.

To Aid Unemployed

Should the information show that a large number of wage earners are unemployed and that distress is liable to result from want of work, the interior is to be notified by the industrial commission and he in turn will issue a proclamation to all state departments, auncy boards and village authorities throughout the state requesting that all public work be pushed forward as rapidly as possible in order that the unemployed be given work.

In case no public work may be done, the council or county board would be empowered to provide maintenance for the employed.

Assemblyman Bingham's bill merely provides that it be lawful for any county, city, town, or village to appropriate money or to permit the use of public property when necessary for maintaining local free employment offices. One half of the expense of maintaining the office is to be borne by the industrial commission and one-half by the county, town, village or city.

Assemblyman Smith's bill provides for the regulation of labor camps and aims to have the state health depart-

ment issue a permit to any one establishing such a camp after an examination of the plans for the camp are presented. Under the proposed measure the state board of health would have the power to appoint inspectors to visit the camps and see that the rules regarding them were enforced.

Miss Obala a License.

Assemblyman Bingham's bill relating to employment agents provides that no person shall make a false statement to any one seeking or furnishing employment, knowing the same to be false. It also provides that no person shall offer or hold himself out as in a position to secure employment without having an order therefor from an employer.

Any person, firm or corporation engaging in the employment business from a profit must obtain a license from the state and will be required to furnish a bond in the sum of \$1,000. In addition a fee of \$100, as follows, will be demanded: In cities of \$6,000 and over, all agents applying female help shall pay a fee of \$50 per year; all other agents supplying other help, \$100 per annum; in all other cities, agents supplying female help must pay a fee of \$10 and all other agents \$25.

Kill Labor Bill.

MADISON, Wis., March 13.—The abuse of the workingman, which has been a feature before assembly committees of the legislature, where fight between capital and labor has been waged, again characterized most of the discussion on the bill to abolish the use of white lead.

Boss painters of the state who appeared at the first hearing before the committee on public welfare again opposed the measure, which was introduced by Assemblyman Minkley. At that time they denied that lead poisoning could result in painters using it but at the hearing Tuesday afternoon they did not uphold their contention.

Assemblymen Kiefer and Minkley presented statistics showing that a large percentage of painters in the United States as well as other countries were disabled through the use of white lead.

Aspinwall, representing the master painters of the state, declared that most of the disability resulted in cases of drunken painters.

"It is the unclean, shiftless painters who get drunk and do not take care of themselves, who are poisoned by white lead," he asserted. "Most of the画者 are men who are lazy and have filthy habits."

He also declared that it was useless to attempt to use a substitute in Wisconsin because the climate made it impossible for a substitute to stand up under the weather conditions.

Assemblyman Minkley took issue

with Forster, and denied that it was alcoholism that caused the disability among the workers.

The same arguments that have been used before this and other committees of this legislature are being used to discredit the workingmen, said Minkley. "The workingmen are called drunkards and lazy and filthy every time any question arises concerning their welfare."

"If a man becomes disabled after his trade under adverse conditions he is called a drunkard by the bosses. The workingman is getting tired of these accusations and will rebel against slander."

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It was gratifying to feel that everybody retired expressing themselves well compensated for their presence, and relieved of all unfavorable impressions obtained through a false press.

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Within the past year they have gained a representative upon the board of city councilmen; have held the first place with two or three exceptions in their political activities, and midst the general political apathy, affecting even their own following, they were the only party that showed an increased vote, in the presidential election.

We cannot complain of the recognition we have received from the local press. They have given us very fair reports and announcements.

Our local holds its meetings in the Union hall, on N. Barstow street, opposite the Commercial hotel. Meetings are held during the Lyceum course at 10:30 Sunday mornings. Members actively engaged are comparatively few, though there are hundreds of affiliated members, and as we are assured thousands of sympathetic followers, many of whom, for obvious reasons, are not in position to make very open declarations.

The recommendation by the committee was made without a dissenting vote and there is little doubt but that the measure will become a law.

The bill will affect the industrial liquor which shall be sold or given away in the buildings or upon the grounds of any private or parochial school.

There is a law which prevents the sale of liquor on the grounds of public schools.

Election Day Half Off.

MADISON, Wis., March 13.—Employers to Milwaukee county will not

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with Forster, and denied that it was alcoholism that caused the disability among the workers.

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